

CLAIMS

1. A method of making a matrix assembly which comprises providing a steel strip (10), treating the upper surface of the steel strip with a resin adhesive, extruding one or more plastic material strips (24,26) onto the metal strip (10) to define a longitudinal channel (28) and heating the assembly so formed to cure the resin adhesive and adhere the plastic material (22) to the metal strip.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the adhesive resin employed is a polyurethane or polyolefin resin.
3. A method as claimed in either of claims 2 or 3 wherein the resin is applied to the surface of the steel strip (10) in a continuous manner immediately before the latter passes into an extrusion die (18) where the plastics material (22) is attached thereto by extruding the plastic material profile onto the resin treated steel strip downstream of the extrusion die.
4. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 wherein the plastic extrusions (22) are controlled and guided into position externally of the extrusion die by a series of horizontally and vertically micrometer adjustable heated precision rollers (29).
5. A method as claimed in of claims 1 to 4 wherein after the plastics material is attached the assembly passes to a heating zone (30) to cure the adhesive resin and effect bonding of the matrix.
6. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5 wherein after curing the resin the assembly is cooled (32), pulled off (12) and further assembled in-line (34) with a double-sided pressure sensitive adhesive tape to the bottom of the matrix, and thereafter cut into suitable lengths for packaging and onward transmission.
7. A method as claimed in any claims 1 to 6 wherein the plastic material (22) adhered to the steel strip is polypropylene.

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8. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 wherein the metallic material is steel.
9. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the strip (10) is conditioned and degreased before use.
10. A matrix assembly made by a method as claimed in any claims 1 to 9.